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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1948

EDWARD LEE,

Medical Officer of Health



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Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF NELSON.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).
 COUNCILLOR W. PENNINGTON (Vice-Chairman).
 THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR G. RUSHTON).
 ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER.

„ F. CORK.
 „ A. SMITH.
 COUNCILLOR MRS. A. BURROWS.
 „ J. W. BUTTERFIELD.
 „ A. DENT.
 „ G. H. DUXBURY.
 „ H. N. ROBERTS.
 „ A. SHACKLETON.
 „ S. SHAW.
 „ F. TAYLOR.
 „ L. WATSON.
 „ R. WILCOCK.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).
 THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR G. RUSHTON).
 ALDERMAN A. SMITH.
 „ H. W. THROUP.
 COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.
 „ W. PENNINGTON.
 „ S. SHAW.
 „ F. TAYLOR.
 „ MRS. V. WESTWELL.
 „ MRS. V. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health ...	EDWARD LEE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	J. W. INGHAM, C.R.S.I., Food Certificate.
Assistant Inspector	S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.
Chief Clerk	A. WILDMAN.*
Clerk	N. GRIFFITHS.
Junior Clerk	G. WALTON.†
Temporary Junior Clerk	MISS G. SUTCLIFFE.*
Health Visitors :	
	MISS F. M. FARRAR, S.R.N., S.C.M.*
	MISS H. HARGREAVES, S.R.N., S.C.M.*
	MISS M. TORKINGTON, S.R.N., S.C.M.‡*
Matron, Maternity Home:	
	MRS. P. M. BALLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M.§
Consultant Obstetrician :	A. CALLAM, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.
Consultant Ophthalmologist :	
	KENNETH BROWN, D.O. (Oxon), D.O.M.S.

†In H.M.F.

‡Part-time School Nurse.

*Transferred to Lancashire County Council

w.e.f. 5th July, 1949.

§Transferred to Manchester Regional Hospital

w.e.f. 5th July, 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
21 CARR ROAD,
NELSON.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for the year 1948.

As you are aware your Medical Officer for the whole of the year was Dr. E. Lee who resigned his appointment at the end of the year.

Personally then I do not propose making many comments, seeing that I played no part whatsoever in the work of the Department. I can however pay tribute to the capabilities of Dr. Lee, who throughout his term of office at Nelson took the keenest interest in all matters pertaining to Public Health, and the service generally has suffered a loss by Dr. Lee's decision to give up public health work.

You can have no doubts on reading the report, and confirmation will be evident from a study of the various figures submitted, that a successful year's work has been accomplished and credit for this must be paid to Dr. Lee and the staff under his control. Dr. Lee himself would no doubt wish me to convey to the Chairman and the whole of the members of the committee his appreciation of the confidence shown to him and the support he has always received. In addition he would like me to express his thanks to all other officials for their help and co-ordination throughout the year.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff of the Public Health Department on whom the brunt of the work of compiling this report has fallen.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. ROBINSON.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area in acres	3,466
Population—Census, 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population— mid-year, 1948	34,530
Number of inhabited houses—	
(a) Census, 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1948, according to rate books	12,158
Rate	17/6d. in the £
Rateable value	£234,258
Sum represented by a penny rate	£932-10-3d.

The cost of the Local Health Services for the financial year 1948-49 was estimated at £5,443, which is equivalent to a rate of 5.8369d. in the £.

Chief industries in the area are cotton and silk weaving along with the trades allied therewith. There has been no apparent change in social conditions during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :	Males	Females	Total	Rate
Total	306	261	567	16.4 per 1,000 of population.
Illegitimate	19	17	36	
Still Births :				
Total	2	13	15	25 per thousand births (live and still).
Illegitimate	—	3	3	
Deaths	267	253	520	15.0 per thousand of population.
Death of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Total	14	9	23	40 per thousand live births.
Legitimate	14	9	23	43 per thousand legitimate births.
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Nil per thousand illegitimate births.
Maternal Deaths :				
Puerperal sepsis		Nil	Nil	Nil per thousand total births (live and still).
Other puerperal causes		Nil	Nil	Nil.

No unusual mortality during the year is evident, nor does there appear to be any particular cause of morbidity specially noteworthy. Analysis of the figures available does not show any undue prejudicial effect on the health of the population which could be accounted for by any occupational or environment factors.

BIRTHS.

The actual number of births registered in Nelson during the year was 477. Included in this number were 9 births relative to non-residents of the district. The corrected number of live births for the year was 567, showing that there were 99 girths pertaining to residents of Nelson which occurred in other districts.

The 567 births represents an annual birth rate of 16.4 per 1,000 of population. This is a decrease of 3.7 per 1,000 on the birth rate for 1947, but is slightly higher by 0.7 on the average birth rate for the years 1943 to 1947.

Compared with the birth rate for England and Wales for 1948, the Nelson rate is less by 1.5 per 1,000 of population, whilst compared to the average birth rate of 148 towns with a 1931 census population of 25,000 to 50,000, Nelson's rate is 2.8 per 1,000 less.

Fifteen still births were registered, the still birth rate for the year being 0.43 per 1,000 of population. In relation to the total births (live and still) the proportion of still births is 25 per 1,000 births. Included in the 531 live births were 36 illegitimates, these latter representing 6.3% of total live births with a birth rate of 1.04 per 1,000 of population.

DEATHS.

386 deaths occurred in Nelson during the year, but of these 15 were of non-residents. Deaths of Nelson residents occurring outside the Borough amounted to 149, this giving the total deaths for Nelson for the year as 520 (267 males and 253 females) and the death rate 15.0 per 1,000 of poulation. This is an increase of 0.1 on the death rate for the previous year but a decrease of 0.3 on the mean death rate for the years 1943 to 1947. Compared with the figures supplied by the Registrar General the death rate for Nelson is 4.2 above the rate for England and Wales and 4.3 above the rate for the group of 148 towns with a 1931 census population of 25,000 to 50,000.

Analysis of the deaths according to age, causes and monthly incidence reveals:—

The greatest number of deaths (82 males and 69 females) occurred from Heart Disease, giving a death rate of 4.37 per 1,000 of population. The next highest cause (30 males and 46

females) was intra-cranial vascular lesions, showing a death rate of 2.20 per 1,000 of population and this is followed by deaths from malignant diseases (39 males and 35 females) showing a death rate of 2.13 per 1,000 of population. Respiratory diseases (excluding Phthisis) were responsible for 47 deaths (27 males and 20 females) giving a death rate of 1.36 per 1,000 of population.

For comparison the death rates for these four causes last year were:—Heart disease 4.74, Intra-cranial vascular lesions 2.23, Malignant diseases 2.16 and Respiratory diseases (excluding Phthisis) 1.90.

Deaths from tuberculosis were 23 (19 from pulmonary and 4 from non-pulmonary) giving a death rate of 0.66 per 1,000 of population. Last year there were only 7 deaths, all from pulmonary tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.21 per 1,000 of population.

The zymotic death rate for the year was 0.11 per 1,000 of population, only 4 deaths occurring which came in this category. In 1947 the zymotic death rate per 1,000 of population was 0.03.

In age groups it was noted that 337 deaths or 64.8% of the total deaths were persons of 65 years or age or over and that 24 or 4.6% of the total deaths were of children under 5 years of age.

The greatest number of deaths, 66, occurred in December, this number being equivalent to an annual death rate of 22.93 per 1,000 of population. June and October had the least number of deaths each with 32, corresponding to an annual death rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of population.

The birth and death rates are calculated on an assumed population of 34,530, this being the figure supplied by the Registrar General as representing the population of Nelson at mid-year 1948. This figure is an increase of 1,390 on the estimated population for mid-year 1947, but is 3,776 below the last actual census figure for 1931.

INFANT DEATHS.

There were 23 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and these give an infantile mortality rate for the year of 40 per 1,000 live births. In 1947 there were 27 infant deaths, which based on the number of births for that year also gave an infantile mortality rate of 40 per 1,000 live births, but the mean rate for the years 1943 to 1947 inclusive, is only 35 per 1,000 births, hence the 1948 figure shows an increase of 5.

Compared with the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales for 1948, i.e. 34 per 1,000 live births, the Nelson rate is greater by 6, and it is also greater by 8 than the average infantile mortality rate, i.e. 32 per 1,000 live births for the group of 148 towns with a 1931 census population of 25,000 to 50,000.

A study of the infant deaths reveals:

- (a) That no death occurred of an illegitimate infant.
- (b) That 11 deaths or 47.8% were due to prematurity and these included one instance of twin births; 7 deaths or 30.4% were due to congenital malformation, injury at birth, or diseases peculiar to infants. Three deaths occurred from whooping cough and one from influenza. There was one death necessitating an inquest.
- (c) The total number of deaths under 1 month, the neo-natal deaths, was 16. Of these 6 took place within 24 hours of birth and 10 occurred between 1 day and 7 days from birth, and the total 16 deaths represents 69.5% of the infant deaths during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A total of 630 specimens were either sent or obtained for examination and of these 549 were examined at the small public health laboratory attached to the Public Health Department. The balance, 81, required examination for which this laboratory is not equipped and were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley, or other laboratories specializing in the particular investigation required. Included in this category are fæces for bacteriological examination, urine for pregnancy test, blood for wasserman reaction and nose and throat swabs for hæmolytic streptococcal infection and typing of the organism.

A detailed list of the total specimens is as follows:—

Throat and Nasal Swabs ..	87
Sputum	27
Pus Smears	137
Urine	259
Fæces	21
Semen	6
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	2
Blood Films and Tests	14
Hair	14
Human Tissue	1
Animal Tissue or Pus	1
Milk Deposits	39
Water	1
Other Specimens	21

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Up to the end of June, the ambulance service for the removal of non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity cases was controlled by the local authority. A permanent staff of 4 was employed, the depot for the service being situate off Leeds Road in the Gas Works yard. This service not only supplied the needs of Nelson, but was also available to the residents of Barrowford, Brierfield and the surrounding area of the Burnley Rural District. From the 1st January to the end of June, 2,062 patients were conveyed, the mileage covered by the vehicles being 11,730.

From the beginning of July the control of the ambulance service has been taken over by the Lancashire County Council, with administration from the Divisional Health Offices at Reedley; the depot, for the time being, still remaining as before.

In regard to infectious cases, these are still removed by the ambulance attached to the Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Up to the 4th July no call had been made on the District Nursing Association under the arrangement then existing between the Association and the local authority. This arrangement provided for nursing assistance to be given when requested by medical practitioners in cases of measles with complications, puerperal pyrexia and ophthalmia neonatorum.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following are the clinics and treatment centres available to Nelson residents. There has been no change in the facilities through the transference of administration to the County Council during the year.

Clinic.	Address.	Day and time open.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	9 Carr Road	Wednesdays 2-0—4-0 p.m. Fridays 2-0—4-0 p.m.
Ante-natal Clinics	Fern Lea Maternity Home	Mondays 2-0—4-0 p.m. 6-0—8-0 p.m. Thursdays 2-0—4-0 p.m.
	9 Carr Road	Tuesdays 2-0—4-0 p.m. Thursdays 2-0—4-0 p.m.
School Clinic	11 Carr Road	Weekdays.
Orthopaedic Clinic	11 Carr Road	Fridays.
Child Guidance Clinic	Blackburn	By appointment.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	64 Carr Road	Tuesdays and Fridays.
Venereal Disease	Victoria Hospital, Burnley	Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

HOSPITALS.

Only one hospital is situate within the Borough, namely Reedyford Memorial Hospital, where beds are available for general, medical and surgical cases. The Municipal Hospital and the Victoria Hospital, both at Burnley, were available for Nelson residents. For maternity cases a small maternity home (Fern Lea) for normal cases is situate in Nelson and was administered by the Local Authority, whilst for abnormal maternity cases provision was made at the Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley. An arrangement with the West Riding Council allowed a small number of maternity cases to be admitted to the Langroyd Maternity Home at Colne.

For infectious diseases, cases from Nelson are admitted into the Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital, Burnley.

From the 5th July the administration of all hospitals was transferred to the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, the facilities as stated above, however, still being available.

NURSING HOMES.

The Lancashire County Council is the local authority for the control and registration of private Nursing Homes. There are, however, no homes of this type in Nelson.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

No change has taken place during the year as regards the source, storage and distribution of the water supply for the area. There are two areas of supply, one on the east side of the town and collected in the Coldwell reservoirs, and one on the west side collected in the Ogden reservoirs. The source in both cases is upland surface water and springs. Chlorination plant and pressure filters are installed at both groups of reservoirs. The water is supplied to other districts adjacent to Nelson and the average daily consumption in the whole of the area supplied was 2,040,543 gallons averaging 43.8 gallons per head of population. These figures, however, include the compensation water discharged from Coldwell reservoir.

Routine inspection is made of the gathering grounds to ensure freedom from obvious sources of pollution, and samples of both the raw water and the water as it goes into supply are regularly taken and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination.

51 bacteriological and 4 chemical examinations have been made during the year, all of which gave satisfactory results.

No plumbo-solvent action is found in the raw water.

A shortage of water is experienced in a small number of houses, due to groups of these houses being supplied with an inefficient joint service pipe. The corporation has a scheme whereby financial assistance is given to the owners of houses requiring separate service pipes, and during the year 142 houses have been dealt with. Since this scheme was first inaugurated 477 rows of houses have been provided with new service arrangements. The supply to all houses in Nelson taking town's water is direct, none being supplied by standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension or alteration of the sewage plant has taken place during the year.

The treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, percolating filter, and humus tanks. The final effluent is discharged into Pendle Water. Sludge from

the settling tanks is pumped into storage tanks, where it is digested. The digested sludge is spread in autumn and winter months on adjoining farm land.

The estimated dry weather flow of sewage is 1,750,000 gallons per day. The water carriage system is in use throughout the town, and the works are situated on the outskirts, and in the lowest area of the district. There is a natural fall to the works and delivery is by high level gravitating sewer. One small low lying area is provided with a low level sewer and the contents of this are emptied into the high level sewer by means of automatic ejections at the works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of privy middens (in town)	Nil
Number of pail closets	44
Number of fresh water closets	5432
Number of waste water closets	7460
Number of trough closets	Nil
Number of dry ashpits	19
Number of movable ashbins	12500

Conversions during the year :

Waste water closets to fresh water closets	94
Dry ashpits to movable ashbins	Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by direct labour, and the Director of Public Cleansing (Mr. V. Robinson) informs me there has been no change in procedure during the year, the work being carried out on the following lines:—

Household refuse is collected weekly from the dustbins and removed in covered vehicles to the Destructor Works, Charles Street. Disposal is by separation, screening and salvage. Screened dust and clinker residue are tipped. Material not worthy of salvage, and organic or vegetable matter not suitable for conversion to a saleable product for animal feeding or as a fertiliser, is incinerated. Street cleansing and street gully emptying are carried out by motor vehicles specially designed for the purpose and the debris disposed of by controlled tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

A summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year is as follows:—

No. of complaints of nuisances received and investigated	206
No. of visits to premises in general	1486
No. of visits re infectious diseases	570
No. of inspections: Stables	57
Licensed premises	26
Bakehouses	55
Workshops and factories	46
Meat shops and stalls	171
Slaughterhouses	13
Dairies and cowsheds	30
Offensive trades	26
Ice cream vendors	23
Food preparation premises	3
No. of defects or nuisances discovered ...	275
No. of defects or nuisances abated	248
No. of verbal notices given	105
No. of informal notices sent	72
No. of legal notices sent	6
No. of smoke observations	48

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

48 smoke observations were taken during the year and no excessive emission of black smoke was recorded. The prescribed limit for the emission of black smoke in your area is 5 minutes in 30 minutes.

Taking an average of the 48 observations based on a 30 minutes duration the result would give: Black smoke 11 seconds, Moderate Smoke 3 minutes 37 seconds, Light Smoke 16 minutes 56 seconds and Clear Smoke 9 minutes 16 seconds.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no Camping Sites, neither military nor civilian, within the borough.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Pollution Acts are administered by the Ribble Joint Committee,

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Public Baths are provided by and under the control of the Corporation, the building being situate in Bradley Road, Nelson. The facilities provided are swimming pools and slipper baths for both males and females.

An Open Air Swimming Pool also under Corporation direct control is provided, being situate in Marsden Park.

Filtration and chlorination plants are in operation at both of these premises.

DISINFESTATION.

22 houses involving 56 rooms, 9 of which were council houses, have been treated during the year for insect infestation. In addition, 2 articles of wearing apparel, 159 articles of bedding and 7 miscellaneous articles were treated through the steam disinfector.

The method adopted is to spray the premises with a solution containing D.D.T., and to follow this with a D.D.T. fumigant. The work is carried out by direct labour and the method found to be efficient.

SCHOOLS.

In the aggregate the sanitary condition of the schools could be classed as fair. Each school is provided with town's' water.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Only one offensive trade, gut scraping, is carried on within the borough.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(i) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Legal Action
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	133	66	...	...
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	210	24	...	...
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced	1	...	...	...
Total	344	90	...	...

(ii) Cases in which defects were found :

Defects	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Legal Action
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	...	1	...
Defective sanitary conveniences	6	6	...	4	...
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences	3	3	...	3	...
Total	10	10	...	8	...

(iii) Outwork: Only one modification of outworkers has been received, the nature of the work being garment making.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is no Common Lodging House in Nelson, nor are any houses registered as being let in lodgings. No action has been found necessary either in regard to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., nor to underground sleeping rooms.

CANAL BOATS.

No inspections are made of Canal Boats.

RAG FLOCKS.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

	Prefabricated.	Traditional Permanent.
(i) By Local Authority	100	50
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	Nil	5

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :

(i) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects	157
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	300
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses included above and inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
(iii) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(iv) Number of dwellinghouses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	141

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	129
---	-----

Action under statutory powers :

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which legal notices were served under Housing Act, 1936	5
--	---

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit by owners after service of notice	3
---	---

By local authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which legal notices were served under Public Health Acts	1
---	---

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit by owners after service of notice	1
---	---

Proceedings under sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936 (Demolition)	Nil
--	-----

Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act, (Underground rooms)	Nil
---	-----

Overcrowding :

Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of year according to Housing Act, 1936	Not Known
--	-----------

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
--	---

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Taken on the whole, the standard of houses generally is good, and though the majority are of the through terrace type, the proportion of semi detached type is increasing. A review of the older type of house shows there are approximately 56 of the back-to-back type whilst there are no back-to-earth houses. Inspection of houses, particularly in the following up of complaints, revealed that the majority of the defects found were due to lack of repairs and maintenance.

The shortage of labour and materials coupled with increased costs, has no doubt been a contributory factor. There has certainly been difficulty in having work carried out, as instances have occurred during the year, when notice requiring the work to be executed has been sent to owners, and they in turn have given orders for such work to be carried out, yet failure to obtain necessary material has held up operations for indefinite periods.

A summary of the housing defects found during the year is :

Dampness due to defective roof, troughing or fall pipes	92
Defective plastering on walls or ceilings	21
Defective floors	11
Defective windows	30
Defective fire ranges	9
Defective yard surface	6
Defective drains, W.C.'s or W.W.C.'s	55
Water leakages	5
Defective sinks and wash basins	8
Defective artificial lighting	1
Defective gates and doors	8

OVERCROWDING.

No figures are available whereby to estimate what extent of actual overcrowding there may be in the town. During the year four cases have been investigated but in one case statutory overcrowding did not exist. The other cases, a recommendation was made to the Housing Department for consideration when accommodation was available in corporation houses. That the provision of houses does not meet the demand is evinced by the large number of applications still on the Housing Department's waiting list, and there are still many houses in the town in which two or perhaps more families are living.

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

In the built up area in the borough each house is provided with an internal water supply. There are, however, still a few houses in which there is a shortage of supply, due to the inadequacy of a common service pipe. A scheme is in operation for dealing with these houses, the Water Department undertaking the work as opportunity arises. The only houses not having a separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation are the back-to-back and single houses. These, of which there are approximately 56 in the borough, are not confined to any one district, but are scattered throughout the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register of cowkeepers and dairymen is amended from time to time as changes occur. At the end of the year there were on the register :

(a) Cowkeepers who do not retail milk in the borough	5
(b) Cowkeepers who dispose of their milk wholesale	6
(c) Cowkeepers and milk purveyors in the borough ...	17
(d) Milk purveyors only	13
(e) Cowkeepers in other areas who are milk purveyors in Nelson	31

There is only one farmstead within the Borough licensed for the production of designated milk, and this for milk produced from a tuberculin tested herd. This milk is not retailed by the producer, but is disposed of wholesale. The Lancashire County Council is the authority from whom licences are issued for the production of designated milk, and premises so registered are subjected to supervision by inspectors appointed by the County Council.

Designated milk, i.e. Pasteurised, Accredited, and milk from tuberculin tested herds is retailed in Nelson, the production being in all cases on premises outside the Borough. Licences for retail only are issued by the Local Authority.

Informal samples of milk are taken throughout the year and tests carried out in the Public Health Laboratory to determine the quality of the milk.

A summary of the various tests made during the year is :

(a) Milk Fat	Total number tested 213	Number in which a deficiency was found	22
(b) Solids not fat	Total number tested 213	Number in which a deficiency was found	3
(c) Visible Cleanliness..	Total number tested 209	Number found not to be satisfactory	2
(d) Methylene Blue Test	Total number tested 209	Number found which failed to reach the standard adopted, i.e., 4½ hours in summer and 5½ hours in winter	18
(e) Coliform Test	Total number tested 208	Number found to contain coliform bacilli in 0.01 c.c.	41
(f) Resazurin Test for keeping quality ...	Total number tested 209	Number found to be	
		Excellent	93
		Very good	64
		Good	39
		Fair	6
		Poor	1
		Bad	1
		Very Bad	5
(g) Tubercle Bacilli	Total number tested 33	Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	Nil

Of the above samples, 96 were purchased, 68 were obtained from the various schools in the area and 49 were submitted for testing. Following the tests a report is sent to the vendor giving the results of the various tests to which the milk has been subjected, and, if unsatisfactory results are shown arrangements are made for further samples to be tested to note if any improvement has been effected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The administration of the Food and Drugs Acts is undertaken by the Lancashire County Council and the County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples taken by his officer in the Borough of Nelson.

Total number of samples taken	170
Milk	100
Treacle	1
Syrup	1
Fish paste	2
Curry paste	1
Zinc ointment	2
Sugar	1
Custard powder	3
White pepper	1
Meat pie	1

Vegetables canned—carrots	1
Vegetables canned—peas	2
Currie powder	1
Barley kernels	1
Beef sausages	1
Butter	3
Marmalade	3
Figs	1
Sultanas	1
Boracic acid	2
Castor oil	2
Ground ginger	2
Tincture iodine	3
Bacon	2
Dates	2
Dried eggs	1
Barley flakes	3
Banana (dried)	1
Blanc-mange powder	2
Milk food	1
Dessert mould	1
Baking powder	1
Cooking fat	1
Lemon curd	1
Cinnamon-ground	1
Mixed spice	1
Vegetarian sweet meat	1
Camphorated oil	2
Jelly	1
Borax	2
Barley	3
Bicarbonate of soda	2
Golden raising powder	3
Condensed milk—full cream sweetened	2

Of the above samples the following were certified by the County Analyst as failing to reach the required standard

Sample.	Result.	Action taken.
1 informal milk	Deficient 15 per cent. fat	Same vendor.
1 informal milk	Deficient 16.6 per cent. fat ...	
1 formal milk	Deficient 3.0 per cent. fat ...	Vendor notified.
1 formal milk	Deficient 7.0 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 6.5 per cent. extraneous water	Prosecution. Vendor fined 10/- and £4 4-0 costs.
1 dessert mould	No declaration of ingredients	Manufacturers notified.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Centralised slaughtering is carried out for the area at Colne Abattoirs and these premises form the distributing centre for meat for the area. One slaughter house in Nelson has been licensed to provide facilities for the slaughtering of cottager's pigs. These pigs are slaughtered under a certificate issued by the Ministry of Food, and advantage has been taken on many occasions for the slaughtering to be carried out at the licensed slaughter house. It is not compulsory, however, and several pigs have been slaughtered on farm premises. Co-ordination between the Food Office and the Public Health Office has enabled all pigs to be examined after slaughter, and with the exception of one found to have suffered from generalised tuberculosis, all carcases have been passed. In this case the carcase was voluntarily surrendered for destruction. The total number of pigs examined during the year was 83.

No seizure of unsound food has been made but the following articles have been submitted for examination and certificates issued to the effect that they were found to be unfit for human consumption.

8 containers of Baked Beans	approximate quantity	4½ lbs.
134 tins of milk	approximate quantity	123 lbs.
59 containers of vegetables	approximate quantity	66¾ lbs.
172 containers of meat products	approximate quantity	253 lbs.
46 containers of fish	approximate quantity	36 lbs.
108 containers of fruit	approximate quantity	457¾ lbs.
16 containers of jam	approximate quantity	14½ lbs.
67 containers of fruit juice	approximate quantity	115 lbs.
7 containers of soup	approximate quantity	6 lbs.
29 containers of dried egg	approximate quantity	9½ lbs.
Assorted fish		238 lbs.
Bacon		6 lbs.
Butter		29 lbs.
Walnuts		2¾ lbs.
Baby food (strained)		4½ ozs.
Flour (soya)		12 lbs.

Information received from the Burnley Health authority, following their discovery of unsound meat on premises where cooked meats are being prepared led to a small quantity, viz. 14 lbs., being collected from shops in Nelson, withdrawn from sale, and later destroyed. In all, 11 shops were visited.

FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning has been reported during the year.

On the register at the end of the year there were 14 premises at which ice-cream was manufactured, stored or sold, and 22 premises at which ice-cream was stored or sold, but not manufactured. These premises are all subject to routine inspections.

A register has also been compiled of premises where meat is allocated for making into pies, stews or pressed beef, etc., and this shows an aggregate of 147 premises. Included in the list, however, are bakehouses and dining rooms, but in all cases the source of the meat supply is from established butcher's shops.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 610 cases were notified under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, an increase of 174 on the number notified during 1947.

The outstanding increase is in the number of cases of measles and, to a lesser degree, scarlet fever.

A detailed comparison with the previous year is as follows :

	Cases notified.		Cases removed to hospital.		Deaths.	
	1948.	1947.	1948.	1947.	1948.	1947.
Scarlet Fever	69	17	20	6	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	1	—	1	—	—
Measles	406	242	7	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	113	116	3	4	3	1
Pneumonia	6	22	1	1	10	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	4	2	3	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	2	1	1	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	—	1	—	1	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	1	1	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	3	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	3	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	32	21	37	23	19	7
Non-pulmonary do.	11	5	3	4	4	—

44 patients were removed to the Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital, but in 3 cases it was found that the illness was of a non-infectious nature and the notification consequently withdrawn, and in one case the admission of a baby who had to accompany its mother; the mother suffering from puerperal pyrexia.

MEASLES.

Sporadic cases of measles were reported during the first half of the year, but the disease had assumed epidemic proportions in the closing months. In November and December 224 cases were notified, 7 cases were removed to hospital, otherwise no application was made for nursing assistance. No deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Notifications of this disease were received month by month throughout the year; March having the highest number with 20 cases, followed by April and August with 15 cases each. 3 cases were removed to hospital on account of complications and three deaths occurred during the year. One of these deaths took place in hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were more cases of scarlet fever reported than in any of the three previous years. Whilst up to December there appeared to be no undue incidence, 35% of the cases for the year were reported in the last month. 20 cases were removed to hospital as adequate isolation could not be carried out at home. Generally all cases were of a mild type and no death occurred from this disease.

Analysis of the cases shows there to have been 3 cases over school age; 47 cases attending school, 12 schools being affected, 6 cases amongst children attending a nursery or a nursery school and 13 babies or infants of under school age.

DIPHTHERIA.

Only one case of this disease occurred during the year. The patient, who recovered, was over school age and had not been immunised against the disease. Two suspected cases were notified and the patients removed to the isolation hospital, but the diagnosis was not confirmed in either case, and the

notifications were subsequently withdrawn. Anti-diphtheritic serum is kept at the Police Station where it is readily available to the local practitioners should it at any time be needed. During the year 9 phials, each of 8,000 units, have been used.

Regular periodic sessions have been held throughout the year to give treatment for immunisation against diphtheria, but from the 5th July all arrangements have been made and the records kept by the Divisional Health Authority and not by the Local Authority.

From 1st January to 4th July, under the scheme sponsored by the Local Authority, 310 children of whom 213 were under 5 years of age and 97 were of school age, received treatment. In addition information has been received regarding a further 27 infants who have received private treatment.

From figures available it is estimated that at the 30th June this year 44% of children under 5 years of age and 86.18% of the children over 5 but under 15 years of age have been immunised. Where primary immunisation has been carried out in infancy, it is recommended that they should receive a supplementary or booster dose of the prophylactic on attaining school age, and a special effort to induce parents to agree to this was commenced in late 1947 and continued in the early months of 1948.

The result has been very gratifying, and from the commencement of the year to the 30th June, 2,037 children of age ranging from 4 years to 14 years had received a supplementary inoculation.

The following table shows the number of persons inoculated annually from 1941, when the scheme was first inaugurated in Nelson, up to the 30th June of this year.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of persons inoculated annually 1941-1948.

Ages	Year								Total inoculated in each Group at 31/12/1948
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	
0 —	4	7	1	—	—	—	23	—	Under 5 years old on 31/12/1948 : 1029
1 —	41	216	192	186	205	168	291	152	
2 —	58	128	39	125	74	74	56	45	
3 —	67	134	27	40	20	13	9	3	
4 —	100	112	45	35	10	13	9	3	
5 —	156	149	29	24	14	9	4	10	Over 5 but under 15 years on 31/12/1948 : 2939
6 —	153	93	18	22	5	9	2	14	
7 —	167	80	20	11	2	2	2	12	
8 —	172	102	16	13	1	2	2	9	
9 —	168	96	8	14	1	—	—	7	
10—	182	104	12	7	1	1	1	9	
11—	153	84	10	9	2	—	—	9	
12—	129	91	17	5	1	—	—	12	
13—	118	75	9	3	—	—	—	9	
14—	3	12	4	10	—	—	—	10	
15 and over	—	—	—	11	2	—	—	6	15 years and over on 31/12/1948 : 1486
Totals	1671	1483	447	515	338	291	399	310	All ages : 5454

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

During the year one case of acute polio-encephalitis was reported. The patient, a male, age 21 years, was on demobilisation leave, and had only been working for a week. It was admitted to the Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital for treatment, and on discharge therefrom was transferred to an orthopædic hospital for further treatment. Complications appeared to be confined to the facial muscles, and there was still some residual paralysis on final discharge from the orthopædic hospital.

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of infectious diseases in age groups:—

Disease.	Total cases	Age Periods.													65 & over	No. rem'd to hosp'l,	Deaths
		Under 1	1 — 1	2 — 2	3 — 3	4 — 4	5 — 5	10 — 10	15 — 15	20 — 20	35 — 35	45 — 45					
Scarlet Fever	69	—	1	2	9	10	37	7	—	2	1	—	—	20	—		
Whooping Cough	113	13	17	16	19	24	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3		
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Measles	406	6	31	65	49	107	143	3	—	2	—	—	—	7	—		
Pneumonia	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	10		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—		
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—		
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—		
Total	610	21	50	83	77	141	208	11	1	9	1	4	4	40	13		

The Registrar General has issued a table showing for England and Wales and sub-divisions of the country the attack rate per 1,000 of population, for certain of the infectious diseases and this is submitted along with the attack rate for Nelson, for comparison.

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.					
Notifications :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
Scarlet fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37	1.99
Whooping cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13	3.27
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.02
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.11
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17	11.75
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57	0.17
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.00
Acute Polio-encephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 125 premises, involving 205 rooms have been fumigated and 118 articles of wearing apparel, 821 articles of bedding and 51 miscellaneous articles have been disinfected.

Fumigation of rooms is carried out by means of formalin spray and vapour, whilst disinfection of bedding, etc., is done by steam, the apparatus being situated at the Destructor Works, Charles Street. Irrespective of infectious diseases, many requests are received for disinfection to be carried out following other illnesses or deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

32 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 11 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified during the year. 19 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis have occurred and these give an annual death rate of 0.55 and 0.11 per 1,000 of population, respectively.

Dr. G. Barker-Charnock, the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area has kindly supplied the following particulars relative to Nelson patients. "Of 203 new patients, 194 of whom were examined at the dispensary and 9 at their homes, 33 were found to be suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous: there were 585 re examinations of "old" cases. With regard to treatment, 13 early cases were admitted to sanatorium, 10 advanced cases to hospital, and 15 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; X-ray examinations totalled 355. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 31 primary and 761 subsequent visits to patients.

During the year 1 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary cases were written off as recovered.

Analysis of the new cases and mortality during 1948 according to age, is as follows:—

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non- re-spiratory M.	Non- re-spiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non- re-spiratory M.	Non- re-spiratory F.
Under 1 year...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years .	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years .	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years .	1	1	3	1	—	1	—	—
20 to 25 years .	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
25 to 35 years .	4	4	—	2	1	—	—	—
35 to 45 years .	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
45 to 55 years .	4	2	—	—	2	2	2	—
55 to 65 years .	5	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	4	—	—	1	3	2	—	1
Totals	22	10	4	7	11	8	2	2

At the end of the year there were on the register for Nelson 116 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (78 males and 38 females) and 68 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (20 males and 48 females).

There does not appear to be any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district. Notification of this disease is generally efficient and there has been no incidence of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action has been necessary under the 1925 Regulations dealing with tuberculosis employees in the milk trade, nor has there been any action under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172, for compulsory removal to hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Up to the 5th July this work was carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. Two whole-time and one part-time Health Visitors were engaged in the work, the work of the part-time nurse being divided between the Infant Welfare Service and the School Medical Service.

From the 5th July the Local Authority ceased to be a Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, the administration of the service being transferred to the County Council; control of the service is now exercised from the Divisional Health Office of the County Council, situate at Oak Leigh, Reedley, and under the supervision of the Divisional Medical Officer.

From the same date administration and control of the Fern Lea Maternity Home was transferred to the Manchester and District Hospitals Board. The internal administration and upkeep of the Home is now the concern of the Hospitals Board, but the selection and arrangements for admission of patients for confinement comes within the province of the Divisional Health Office.

The following figures, relative to the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service refer only to the period from the 1st January to the 4th July.

Number of births notified under the Notification of Births Act:—

Live births	260
Still births	2

Included in these figures are 4 cases of twin births.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Number of visits paid by Health Visitors

(1) To expectant mothers	First visits	125
	Total visits	182

(2) To children under 1 year of age	First visits	309
	Total visits	1166
(3) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years		
	Total visits	1320
(4) Special visits paid to homes with reference to Home Helps, Rebates, etc.	Total visits	228
(5) Ineffectual visits		309

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre and who on that date of their first attendance were:—

(1) Under 1 year of age	210
(2) Over 1 year of age	26

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended the Centre during the year and who at the end of the period were:—

(1) Under 1 year of age	133
(2) Over 1 year of age	477

Total attendances made by children:—

(1) Under 1 year of age	2463
(2) Over 1 year of age	1097

Number of sessions held during the year 50

Average attendance per session:—

(1) Children under 1 year of age	49.2
(2) Children over 1 year of age	21.9

NURSERY ACCOMMODATION.

There are no day or residential nurseries under the control of the Health Committee, nor are there any women registered as daily guardians.

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES.

Total number of women who attended at the clinics provided and maintained by the Council	193
Total number of attendances made	1470
Number of sessions held	73
Average number attending per session	20

MATERNITY HOME.

Name and address of institution: Fern Lea Maternity Home,
Netherfield Road, Nelson.

Number of maternity beds (exclusive of isolation and labour beds)	10
Number of maternity cases admitted during the period ...	124
Average duration of stay	10 days
Number of cases delivered by	
(a) Midwives	120
(b) Doctors	4
Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in an emergency	57
Number of cases admitted after delivery	Nil
Number of cases notified as	
(a) Puerperal Fever	Nil
(b) Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum	Nil
Number of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complimentary fed whilst in the home (excluding those given during the first three or four days whilst breast feeding is being established)	1
Number of infants wholly breast fed on leaving the institution	118
Number of cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Number of maternal deaths	Nil
Number of still births	1

Causes: (i) Anencephalus (32 weeks).

Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth 5

Cause of death in each case:

- (i) Prematurity (4 days).
- (ii) Prematurity (1 day).
- (iii) Erythroblastosis Foetalis (4 days).
- (iv) Asphyxia Neonatorum (1 day).
- (v) Foetal Hydrops (10 minutes).

Included in the 124 maternity cases admitted to Fern Lea Maternity Home during the period were two patients who were non-residents of Nelson

The arrangements with the West Riding County Council to admit patients from Nelson into Langroyd Maternity Home, Colne, providing accommodation was available, operated throughout the period under review and 30 patients were admitted to this Home from Nelson.

12 Nelson patients with obstetrical abnormalities were admitted into the Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley.

The services of the Consultant Obstetrician were requested on 25 occasions; 24 for complications of pregnancy and 1 for a case of puerperal pyrexia.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

No maternal death occurred during the whole of the year.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

The number of premature infants notified up to the 5th July whose mother was normally resident within the council's area was 15. Of these 5 were born at home and 10 in hospital or maternity home. As regards the 5 born at home, 2 were removed to hospital and 3 were nursed entirely at home.

Of these 15 premature infants 11 had survived at the end of the first month after birth, 1 had died at the age of 4 days and 3 had died within 24 hours of birth.

There was special equipment provided for use by the midwife in attendance on those babies nursed at home and where hospital treatment was necessary, special facilities were provided for their transfer either to the Bank Hall Maternity Hospital or the Municipal Hospital, Burnley.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 following domiciliary confinement and 1 following Maternity Home confinement, and 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 2 in domiciliary and 1 in institutional confinements have been reported. One of these 2 latter domiciliary cases was removed to hospital for treatment. There were no deaths resulting from these infections, and in the case of ophthalmia neonatorum there was no impairment of vision.

The following figures give a comparison of the incidence of Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever throughout the country.

England and Wales ...	6.89	per 1,000 total births (live & still).
126 County Boroughs	8.90	do. do.
148 Smaller Towns ...	4.71	do. do.
London Admin. C'ty	7.34	do. do.
Nelson	5.15	do. do.

HOME HELPS.

There were 7 Home Helps employed by the Council at the end of June, an increase of one compared with the position at the end of 1947. Under your authority's scheme there have been 62 cases during the period under review in which home help has been provided. All these were maternity cases. The Home Helps worked under the instructions of and supervision by the Health Visitors and undertook domestic duties only.

Total visits (half days)	1260
Average per case	20
Average visits per home help	180

MOTHER AND BABY HOMES.

There are no Homes or Hostels in the Borough provided either by the Council or Voluntary Associations for the admission of ante-natal or post-natal mothers or their babies.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

No special social worker has been appointed either by the Council or in combination with any other Welfare Authority for the purpose of Ministry of Health Circular 2866. During the year there were 39 illegitimate births registered (36 live births and 3 still births) and this represents 7.1% of the total births (live and still) for the year.

Special supervision by the Health Visitors is exercised in all cases of illegitimate babies. No death of an illegitimate infant under 1 year of age has been recorded during the whole of the year.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

There were 3 children on the register at the end of June as being under the care of foster mothers, as defined by Section 206 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Each Health Visitor is appointed as Child Protection Visitor for supervisory purposes. During this period no proceedings have been taken or orders applied for.

REVIEW.

As control of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services has now been transferred from the Local Authority to the County Council, and the administration of the Fern Lea Maternity Home to the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, a few facts relative to the services may not be out of place at this time.

The Notification of Birth Acts was adopted by your Authority in 1911, and in August of that year the first Health Visitor was appointed. The primary duties were concerned with the welfare of babies until they reached the age of 12 months, and was dependent entirely on home visiting.

The average birth rate at that time over a period of 10 years was 19.9 and the infantile mortality rate 114. For the past 10 years the average birth rate is 13.7 and the average infantile mortality rate 46.

In 1915 the scope of the Health Visitor's work was extended to include supervision of children until they attained the age of 5 years, and in this year an additional Health Visitor was permanently appointed.

The first Infant Welfare Centre session to be held was on the 19th January, 1916, the school clinic premises at No. 11 Carr Road being utilised for the purpose. In 1918 an additional house, No. 9 Carr Road, was bought, alterations carried out, and in May, 1919, the premises were opened as the permanent Infant Welfare Centre, still in use at the present time.

The record of the first year's working of the Infant Welfare Centre showed 194 infants and children attending and they made a total of 426 attendances. In 1947, 802 infants and children attended making a total of 5,105 attendances.

From the opening of the Clinic, opportunity was given for Ante-natal mothers to attend for consultation, but very few attended, 6 in 1917 and 17 in 1918, these making 14 and 40 attendances respectively.

In 1931 it was arranged that Ante-natal sessions should be held at Fern Lea Maternity Home for the benefit of patients having booked for admission to the Home, and in this year 144 patients attended making 1,192 attendances.

The facilities at the Infant Welfare Centre were still maintained and during 1931, 57 patients attended, making 196 attendances. Later extensions of the Ante-natal services were made, and under the arrangements made by your Council, in 1947, 386 women attended the Ante-natal clinics, making in all

2,507 attendances. From the 1st January to 4th July of this year under review, 73 Ante-natal sessions were held with an average attendance of 20.

On the 7th May, 1919, a scheme was inaugurated to provide accommodation for normal confinements in cases where home conditions were inadequate.

This consisted of the use of two rooms at Fern Lea, which at that time was the headquarters of the Local District Nursing Association. The rooms were filled up by the Corporation and the Nursing Association undertook the nursing and attendance on the patients. The first patient was admitted on the 21st May, 1919. It was soon evident that the provision would not meet the demands likely to be made upon the service, and negotiations were commenced and brought to a successful conclusion whereby the Corporation became the owners of the property, with a view to its conversion into an established maternity home under the full and direct control of the Local Authority. The existing arrangements were therefore terminated and the Home as such, closed in March, 1920. By this time, there had been 46 patients admitted.

Extensive alterations were made, and the building enlarged so that by the 28th May, 1921, the premises as they now exist were ready for the admission of patients. Since this latter date and up to the 4th July of this year under review, a total of 5,246 patients had been admitted to the Home. From the first inception of the scheme then, a grand total of 5,292 patients have been catered for at Fern Lea.

The provision of Home Helps by the Local Authority in maternity cases was commenced in January, 1939, but difficulty in obtaining suitable individuals to carry out the work and who would be available whenever called upon, rendered the service less successful than would have been the case had permanent appointments been made. Later, when co-ordination was established between welfare work under the Housing Department and the Home Help service, which enabled permanent appointments to be made, the service proved much more successful. At the 4th July there were 7 permanent Home Helps engaged, and applications for their services have been on the increase.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Meteorological Station is situated in the grounds of the Cemetery, Walton Lane. Daily readings have been taken throughout the year and the following figures are of interest:—

Barometer at M.S.L.	Highest reading	1042.5 mb. on 26th April.
	Lowest reading	973.4 mb. on 7th Jan.
	Mean for the year	1014.9 mb.
Maximum in the shade ...	Highest reading	84.0° on 29th July.
	Lowest reading	28.9° on 20th January.
	Mean for the year	54.0°
Minimum in the shade ...	Highest reading	63.8° on 29th July.
	Lowest reading	21.3° on 28th February.
	Mean for the year	42.0°
Bright sunshine	No. of days recording sunshine	259
	Total amount for the year	1220.6 hours
	Average per day throughout the year ...	3.34 hours
Rainfall	Number of days on which rain occurred	234
	Total rainfall for the year	40.55 inches
	Greatest fall in 1 day	1.40 inches on 2nd June.
Number of days with rainfall of		
0.01 to 0.03 inches		76
Number of days with rainfall of		
0.04 inches or more		158

CONCLUSION.

In the compilation of this report I am indebted to the undermentioned officials for information relative to work outside my control, and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the assistance they have rendered me in enabling me to place before you the Annual Report for the year 1948.

Dr. F. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. G. Barker Charnock, County Consultant Tuberculosis Officer.

Mr. F. V. Alexander, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Nelson.

Mr. J. Gilchrist Smith, Borough Water Engineer, Nelson.

Mr. N. Sceats, Borough Treasurer, Nelson.

Mr. V. Robinson, Borough Cleansing Superintendent, Nelson.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death with Corresponding Rates.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
All causes.	267	253	520	15.0
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	0.00
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	0.00
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—	0.00
4. Whooping cough	2	1	3	0.08
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	0.00
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	11	8	19	0.55
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	2	4	0.11
8. Syphilitic disease	1	1	2	0.05
9. Influenza	1	—	1	0.02
10. Measles	—	—	—	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	5	—	5	0.14
13F. Cancer of uterus	—	4	4	0.11
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	8	14	0.40
15. Cancer of breast	—	6	6	0.17
16. Cancer of all other sites	28	17	45	1.30
17. Diabetes	2	6	8	0.23
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	30	46	76	2.20
19. Heart disease	82	69	151	4.37
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	7	12	19	0.55
21. Bronchitis	20	11	31	0.89
22. Pneumonia	5	5	10	0.28
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	4	6	0.17
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	10	—	10	0.28
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1	—	1	0.02
26. Appendicitis	2	—	2	0.05
27. Other digestive diseases	2	7	9	0.26
28. Nephritis	6	5	11	0.31
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	0.00
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—	0.00
31. Premature birth	5	4	9	0.26
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	5	4	9	0.26
33. Suicide	6	—	6	0.17
34. Road traffic accidents	1	1	2	0.05
35. Other violent causes	4	6	10	0.28
36. All other causes	21	26	47	1.36

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1948.

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
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RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Live births	17.9*	20.0	19.2	20.1	16.4
Still births	0.42*	0.52	0.43	0.39	0.43
Deaths :					
All causes	10.8*	11.6	10.7	11.6	15.0
Typhoid & paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.08
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63	0.66
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.02
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-Encephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54	0.28

RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Deaths under one year of age	34	39	32	31	40
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4	0.8

* Rates per 1000 Total Population.

APPENDIX III.

Comparison of various Nelson rates for 1948 with those for 1947 and the mean of the 5 years 1943—1947.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.
	Live birth rate.	Crude death rate.	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death rate from cancer.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
Mean of five years 1943-1947	15.7	15.3	0.37	2.16	1.18	1.14	35
1947	20.1	14.9	0.21	2.17	1.49	1.47	40
1948	16.4	15.0	0.55	2.14	Nil	Nil	40
Increase or decrease of 1948 rates on 5 years' average 1943-1947	+0.7	-0.3	+0.18	-0.02	-1.18	-1.14	+5
Increase or decrease of 1948 rates on 1947	-3.7	+0.1	+0.34	-0.03	-1.49	-1.47	Nil

